

SEYMOUR RETREATING

His Little Force Is Ten Miles From Tien-Tsin and Hard Pressed.

MINISTERS MAY BE WITH HIM

Few of Seymour's Men Killed, but Many Are Sick or Wounded.

LITTLE DAMAGE AT TIEN-TSIN

A Messenger Brings News From the Besieged City.

Major Waller With the American Marines Leads the Relief Column—Commander Wise Put in Charge at Taku—Rumor That a Chinese Army Is Gathering to Attempt to Recapture the Forts—Chinese Minister in Paris Gets News That the Pekin Legations Are Safe, but His Despatch Is Undated—French Missionaries Murdered—Fear Now Entertained of an Outbreak at Canton—Boxers Threaten New Chang.

Special Cable Dispatch to THE SUN.

From THE SUN'S Correspondent at Chefoo.

CHEFOO, June 26.—The Chinese merchant steamer Tang-Chow has arrived here from Taku. At 4:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon, she reports Admiral Seymour was within ten miles of Tien-Tsin and was retreating to that city. He was badly hampered by the sick and wounded he was carrying with him.

As soon as the news reached Tien-Tsin a force of the allied troops was despatched to the Admiral's assistance.

LONDON, June 26.—A despatch to the Central News from Chefoo, dated Tuesday, says that the steamer Tien-Chow brings news from Taku to 5 o'clock yesterday to the effect that it is officially stated that communication has been established with Admiral Seymour, who was within nine miles of Tien-Tsin. He was being hard pressed by the Chinese, and was much hampered by his sick and wounded. A few of his force had been killed.

Troops are being rapidly forwarded from Taku. It is estimated that there are 10,000 troops between Taku and Tien-Tsin. Most of these are Japanese, who continue to pour in.

Mr. Watson, a Taku pilot, has forced his way through the Chinese lines from Tien-Tsin, which place he left after dark. He reached Taku early Sunday morning, after travelling on horseback and on foot. After breaking through the besiegers he worked southward in order to avoid the railway. He says that the reports that have been sent out of the condition of affairs at Tien-Tsin are exaggerated. There were but few casualties caused by the bombardment and only small damage to property.

The people were naturally anxious, but intended to make a sortie Sunday. The general impression in Taku and Chefoo is that Pekin can now be easily relieved. It is impossible to obtain any idea of the Chinese casualties. The allied forces worked together admirably.

LONDON, June 27.—Beyond Admiral Kempff's despatch announcing the relief of Tien-Tsin and the departure of a force toward Pekin to relieve Admiral Seymour and the foreign Ministers there is little official information. The fact that none of the other commanders or Consuls has transmitted the news of the town's relief is commented upon as being strange.

The unofficial reports are meagre and they are not in accord. The strength of the relieving force is variously rumored to have been 4,000 and 6,000, and while the latest report ascribes the success to Major Waller of the American Marines the earlier stories name others as the commanding officer.

Among the most recent Shanghai reports is one to the effect that the bodies of massacred men and women of every European nationality as well as Americans and Japanese are lying in the streets of Tien-Tsin.

An undated despatch to the Central News from Taku, sent by way of Chefoo to-day, says that the force which relieved Tien-Tsin consisted of 2,000 men commanded by Major Waller of the American Marines. The Chinese guns were silenced by the artillery of the relieving force, who then advanced upon the town. The British and Americans were the first to enter and they were followed by the rest of the force. The Russians lost four killed and thirty wounded. The other nationalities suffered trifling loss. The naval commanders have appointed Commander Wise of the American gunboat Monocacy commandant at Taku. He will superintend the despatching of supply trains to the town.

A despatch from Shanghai of yesterday's date said that the force then proceeding to Tien-Tsin numbered 8,000. The majority of these were Japanese. The force also included 2,000 British and 1,200 Germans. Gen. Fukushima was in command. The despatch also says it is reported in Shanghai that the Russians lost 120 killed and 200 wounded when they were repulsed on the road to Tien-Tsin.

The latest rumor in reference to the ambassador of the Russians and Americans last week asserts that they abandoned several field guns and much ammunition.

All the statements regarding Admiral Seymour have the most shadowy basis. Those which describe him as being surrounded differ as to whether he is near Pekin or Tien-Tsin.

In the House of Commons to-day the Hon. William St. John Brodric, Under Secretary to the Foreign Office, said:

"Statements have reached us from various Chinese sources to the effect that the legations were unharmed as late as June 20. We earnestly trust these are correct, but we have no official confirmation."

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